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10/585,863	02/07/2007	Guangxia Gao	Q95957	7734
23373 7590 01/07/2010 SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037				
EXAMINER PAK, YONG D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1652				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/07/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/585,863

Applicant(s)

GAO ET AL.

Examiner

YONG D. PAK

Art Unit

1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 14-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This application is 371 of PCT/CN04/00039.

The amendment filed September 24, 2009 has been entered.

Claims 1-12 and 14-16 are pending. Claims 5-12 are withdrawn. Claims 1-4 and 14-16 are under consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 and claims 3-4 and 14-15 depending therefrom are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the phrase "variant of the Moloney murine leukemia virus reverse transcriptase of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84". The metes and bounds of this phrase in the context of the above claims are not clear to the Examiner. It is not clear to the Examiner if (1) the variant of the Moloney murine leukemia virus reverse transcriptase of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said variant has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 except that the variant has an amino X at position 84 or (2) if the Moloney murine leukemia virus reverse transcriptase has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84. Examiner requests clarification of the above phrase. For examination purposes, Examiner has interpreted the phrase to encompass interpretation (2). Examiner has

given the same interpretation while considering the claims for all other rejections. However, if applicants' intended meaning of the phrase is different from the examiner's interpretations as stated above, applicants are requested to so state and clarify the record.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's amendment and arguments filed on September 24, 2009, have been fully considered and are not deemed to be persuasive to overcome some of the rejections previously applied.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-4 and 14-15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The claims are drawn to a variant of the Moloney murine leukemia virus reverse transcriptase (MLV-RT) of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84,

which is an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of Gln, such as Ala, Ser, Asp, or Asn, wherein the function of the variant is not recited.

It is noted that MPEP 2111.01 states that "[d]uring examination, the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. The claims encompass any variants of the MLV-RT of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84, which is an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of Gln, such as Ala, Ser, Asp, or Asn, wherein said variant has unknown function, and any function. (See the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph). Therefore, the claims encompass polypeptides having unknown structure and unknown function.

In *University of California v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, 43 USPQ2d 1938, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has held that "A written description of an invention involving a chemical genus, like a description of a chemical species, 'requires a precise definition, such as by structure, formula, (or) chemical name,' of the claimed subject matter sufficient to distinguish it from other materials". As indicated in MPEP 2163, the written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice, reduction to drawings, or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e., structure or other physical and/or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show that Applicant was in possession of the claimed genus. In addition, MPEP 2163 states that a representative number of species means that the species which are adequately described are

representative of the entire genus. Thus, when there is substantial variation within the genus, one must describe a sufficient variety of species to reflect the variation within the genus.

The claims are drawn to polypeptides having unknown structure and unknown function. The specification only describes two specific ML-VRT variants of single ML-VRT having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, wherein the variant laccase consists of substitutions at positions 84 with an Ala residue and/or at position 524 with an Asn residue and the variant has ML-VRT activity. While MPEP 2163 acknowledges that in certain situations "one species adequately supports a genus," it also acknowledges that "[f]or inventions in an unpredictable art, adequate written description of a genus which embraces widely variant species cannot be achieved by disclosing only one species within the genus." In view of the widely variant species encompassed by the genus, two variants of the ML-VRT of SEQ ID NO:9 are not enough and does not constitute a representative number of species to describe the whole genus of any or all variants of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9 and there is no evidence on the record of the above mentioned two mutants of SEQ ID NO:9 and the structure of any or all variants of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9. Therefore, the specification fails to describe a representative species of the genus comprising any or all variants having any structure.

The claims are also drawn to many functionally unrelated polypeptides encompassed within the scope of these claims, including partial sequences, resulting in a substantial variation within the genus. The genus of these polypeptides comprise a large variable genus with the potentiality of having different activity or no activity. The

specification only describes two specific ML-VRT variants of single ML-VRT having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, wherein the variant laccase consists of substitutions at positions 84 with an Ala residue and/or at position 524 with an Asn residue and the variant has ML-VRT activity. While MPEP 2163 acknowledges that in certain situations "one species adequately supports a genus," it also acknowledges that "[f]or inventions in an unpredictable art, adequate written description of a genus which embraces widely variant species cannot be achieved by disclosing only one species within the genus." In view of the widely variant species encompassed by the genus, this one example is not enough and does not constitute a representative number of species to describe the whole genus of any or all variants, recombinant and mutants of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9 and having unknown activity, and there is no evidence on the record of the relationship between the structure of the above two variants and the structure of any or all recombinant, variant and mutant of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9 and having or unknown activity. The specification also fails to describe additional representative species of the polypeptides by any identifying characteristics or properties of the polypeptides, for which no predictability of function is apparent. Therefore, one skilled in the art cannot reasonably conclude that the applicant had possession of the claimed invention at the time the instant application was filed.

Given this lack of description of the representative species encompassed by the genus of the claims, the specification fails to sufficiently describe the claimed invention in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize that applicants were in possession of the inventions of claims 1-4 and 14-15.

Applicant is referred to the revised guidelines concerning compliance with the written description requirement of U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, published in the Official Gazette and also available at www.uspto.gov.

In response to the previous Office Action, applicants have traversed the above rejection. Applicants argue that the amendment of claims 1-2 has overcome the rejection. Examiner respectfully disagrees. The claims encompass any variants of the MLV-RT of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84, which is an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of Gln, such as Ala, Ser, Asp, or Asn, wherein said variant has unknown function, and any function. (See the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph). Therefore, the claims encompass polypeptides having unknown structure and unknown function. Hence the rejection is maintained.

Claims 1-4 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for two specific ML-VRT variants of single ML-VRT having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, wherein the variant laccase consists of substitutions at positions 84 with an Ala residue and/or at position 524 with an Asn residue and the variant has ML-VRT activity, does not reasonably provide enablement for polypeptides having unknown structure and unknown function. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with

which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required are summarized in In re Wands 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2nd 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988). They include (1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount of direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

The claims encompass any variants of the MLV-RT of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84, which is an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of Gln, such as Ala, Ser, Asp, or Asn, wherein said variant has unknown function, and any function. (See the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph). Therefore, the claims encompass polypeptides having unknown structure and unknown function.

The breadth of the claims.

It is noted that MPEP 2111.01 states that "[d]uring examination, the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow." In this case, the claims are not limited to only the mutation at position 84 and/or 524. Therefore, while the variant comprises the recited mutations, the same variant comprises any amino acids in any other positions, wherein said variant has no function, unknown function, and any function. Thus, Examiner has interpreted the claims broadly to encompass variants of

SEQ ID NO:2 or 9, wherein the variant comprises a mutation at position 84 and/or 524 and one or more amino acid mutations at any other amino acid positions. Therefore, the claims encompass polypeptides having unknown structure and unknown function.

The scope of the claims is not commensurate with the enablement provided by the disclosure with regard to the extremely large number of polypeptides of virtually any structure and unknown function. In the instant case, the specification only enables two specific ML-VRT variants of single ML-VRT having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, wherein the variant laccase consists of substitutions at positions 84 with an Ala residue and/or at position 524 with an Asn residue and the variant has ML-VRT activity.

The quantity of experimentation required to practice the claimed invention based on the teachings of the specification.

While enzyme isolation techniques, recombinant and mutagenesis techniques were known in the art at the time of the invention, e.g. mutagenesis, and it is routine in the art to screen for variants comprising multiple substitutions or multiple modifications as encompassed by the instant claims, the specific amino acid positions within the protein's sequence where amino acid modifications can be made with a reasonable expectation of success in obtaining the desired activity/utility are limited in any protein and the result of such modifications is unpredictable. In addition, one skilled in the art would expect any tolerance to modification for a given protein to diminish with each further and additional modification, e.g. multiple substitutions.

In the absence of: (a) rational and predictable scheme for modifying any amino acid residue with an expectation of obtaining the desired biological function, (b) a

correlation between structure and function of ML-VRT activity, the specification provides insufficient guidance as to which of the essentially infinite possible choices is likely to be successful. One of skill in the art would have to test these infinite possible polypeptides to determine (1) which mutants have ML-VRT activity, (2) the specific substrates targeted by such proteins and (3) how to use those polypeptides not have ML-VRT activity. While enablement is not precluded by the necessity for routine screening, if a large amount of screening is required, as is the case herein, the specification must provide a reasonable amount of guidance which respect to the direction in which the experimentation should proceed so that a reasonable number of species can be selected for testing. In view of the fact that such guidance has not been provided in the instant specification, it would require undue experimentation to enable the full scope of the claims

The state of prior art, the relative skill of those in the art, and predictability or unpredictability of the art.

Since the amino acid sequence of the mutant determines its structural and functional properties, predictability of which changes can be tolerated in a protein's amino acid sequence and obtain the desired activity requires a knowledge of and guidance with regard to which amino acids in the protein's sequence, if any, are tolerant of modification and which are conserved (i.e. expectedly intolerant to modification), and detailed knowledge of the ways in which the proteins' structure relates to its function. In the instant case, neither the specification or the art provide a correlation between structure and activity such that one of skill in the art can envision the structure of any

polypeptides having the same biological function as that of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9 or predict the function of a polypeptide from its primary structure. In addition, the art does not provide any teaching or guidance as to (1) which amino acids within the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9 (other than the amino acid at positions 84 and 524) can be modified and which ones are conserved such that one of skill in the art can make the recited polypeptides having the same biological activity as that of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, (2) which segments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9 are essential for activity, and (3) the general tolerance of ML-VRT to structural modifications and the extent of such tolerance. The art clearly teaches that changes in a protein's amino acid sequence to obtain the desired activity without any guidance/knowledge as to which amino acids in a protein are required for that activity is highly unpredictable. At the time of the invention there was a high level of unpredictability associated with altering a polypeptide sequence with an expectation that the polypeptide will maintain the desired activity. For example, Branden et al. (introduction to Protein Structure, Garland Publishing Inc., New York, page 247, 1991 – form PTO-892) teach that (1) protein engineers are frequently surprised by the range of effects caused by single mutations that they hoped would change only one specific and simple property in enzymes, (2) the often surprising results obtained by experiments where single mutations are made reveal how little is known about the rules of protein stability, and (3) the difficulties in designing de novo stable proteins with specific functions.

In addition, since the claims encompass polypeptides having any function, one of skill in the art can not envision the function of these polypeptides from the structure of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9. Further, the function of a polypeptide cannot be predicted from its structure and the specification does not teach how to use polypeptides having any function or having no activity. The quantity of experimentation in this area is extremely large since there is significant variability in the activity of the polynucleotides in the claims. It would require significant study to identify the actual function of the encoded polypeptides and identifying a use for the encoded polypeptide would be an inventive, unpredictable and difficult undertaking. This would require years of inventive effort, with each of the many intervening steps, upon effective reduction to practice, not providing any guarantee of success in the succeeding steps.

The art is extremely unpredictable with regard to protein function in the absence of realizable information regarding its activity. Even very similar proteins may have every different functions. In the current case, where no specific information is known regarding the function, it is entirely unpredictable what function and activity will be found for the protein.

The amount of direction or guidance presented and the existence of working examples.

The specification only enables two specific ML-VRT variants of single ML-VRT having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, wherein the variant laccase consists of substitutions at positions 84 with an Ala residue and/or at position 524 with an Asn residue and the variant has ML-VRT activity. However, the speciation fails to provide

any information as to (1) specific substrates associated with the ML-VRT of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9, (2) structural elements required in a polypeptide having ML-VRT activity, or (3) which are the structural elements in the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9 that are essential to display ML-VRT activity. No correlation between structure and function of having laccase activity has been presented. There is no information or guidance as to which amino acid residues in the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9 can be modified and which ones are to be conserved to create a polypeptide displaying the same activity as that of the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:2 or 9.

Thus, in view of the overly broad scope of the claims, the lack of guidance and working examples provided in the specification, the high level of unpredictability of the prior art in regard to structural changes and their effect on function and the lack of knowledge about a correlation between structure and function, an undue experimentation would be necessary one having ordinary skill in the art to make and use the claimed invention in a manner reasonably correlated with the scope of the claims. The scope of the claims must bear a reasonable correlation with the scope of enablement (*In re Fisher*, 166 USPQ 19 24 (CCPA 1970)). Without sufficient guidance, determination of polypeptides having the desired biological characteristics recited in the claims are unpredictable and the experimentation left to those skilled in the art is unnecessarily, and improperly, extensive and undue. See *In re Wands* 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2nd 1400 (Fed. Cir, 1988).

In response to the previous Office Action, applicants have traversed the above rejection. Applicants argue that the amendment of claims 1-2 has overcome the

rejection. Examiner respectfully disagrees. The claims encompass any variants of the MLV-RT of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84, which is an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of Gln, such as Ala, Ser, Asp, or Asn, wherein said variant has unknown function, and any function. (See the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph). Therefore, the claims encompass polypeptides having unknown structure and unknown function.

Hence the rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato et al.

Claims 1-2 are drawn to any variants of the MLV-RT of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84, which is an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of Gln, such as Ala, Ser, Asp, or Asn, wherein said variant has unknown function, and any function. (See the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph).

Kato et al. (Jpn. J. Genet. 62, 127-137, 1987 –form PTO-892) discloses a reverse transcriptase (Figure. 1-2 on page 131). The polypeptide of Kato et al. has an

amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of glutamine at a position corresponding to position 84 of SEQ ID NO:2, Asp residue at a position corresponding to position 524 of SEQ ID NO:2 and one or more amino acid mutations at any other amino acid positions (Figure 1-2 on page 131 and see attached sequence alignment). Since (1) there is no limitation on the structure of the claimed variant except having an Asp residue at position corresponding to position 524 of SEQ ID NO:2 and an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of glutamine at a position corresponding to position 84 of SEQ ID NO:2 and (2) the instant claims are drawn to a product, which may be produced by the recited modification/starting material or not, Examiner takes the position that the polypeptide of kato et al. reads on the instant claims. Therefore, whether the claimed product is obtained from the ML-VRT of SEQ ID NO:2 or obtained from any source (including wild type proteins), as long as the resulting product has the structural limitations recited in the claims, the product is still the same and is within the scope of the claimed invention. Therefore, the reference of kato et al. anticipates claims 1-2.

In response to the previous Office Action, applicants have traversed the above rejection. Applicants argue that the amendment of claims 1-2 has overcome the rejection. Examiner respectfully disagrees. The claims encompass any variants of the MLV-RT of SEQ ID NO:2, except having the amino acid X at position 84, which is an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of Gln, such as Ala, Ser, Asp, or Asn, wherein said variant has unknown function, and any function. (See the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph). Since (1) there is no limitation on the

structure of the claimed variant except having an Asp residue at position corresponding to position 524 of SEQ ID NO:2 and an amino acid with a side chain shorter than that of glutamine at a position corresponding to position 84 of SEQ ID NO:2 and (2) the instant claims are drawn to a product, which may be produced by the recited modification/starting material or not, Examiner takes the position that the polypeptide of kato et al. reads on the instant claims. Therefore, whether the claimed product is obtained from the ML-VRT of SEQ ID NO:2 or obtained from any source (including wild type proteins), as long as the resulting product has the structural limitations recited in the claims, the product is still the same and is within the scope of the claimed invention.

Hence the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

Claim 16 is allowed.

Claims 1-4 and 14-15 are rejected.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Pak whose telephone number is 571-272-0935. The examiner can normally be reached 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached on 571-272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

/Yong D Pak/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1652